



**JILL BILLINGS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**State Assembly Passes Rep. Billings' Bill to Protect Youth Victims and Witnesses of Human Trafficking in the Courtroom**

Madison – Today the Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously passed Assembly Bill 976, which increases protections for children testifying in human trafficking cases. Representative Billings introduced this bill and released the following statement:

“This legislation is a crucial step forward to protect victims as they testify in human trafficking prosecutions and help children who have been victimized as they rebuild their lives.” By allowing more children to provide remote testimony to the court during a human trafficking case, these victims will be able to communicate to the court more clearly while avoiding the emotional distress and trauma caused by the presence of the defendant.”

“This legislation is inspired by a recommendation of Shared Hope International, which has given Wisconsin an F rating for our laws combatting trafficking. By passing this legislation, we’re demonstrating the Assembly’s commitment to doing better for victims of trafficking.”

“I am glad that this bi-partisan bill was recommended in the Assembly Task Force on Human Trafficking and has moved so quickly through the legislative process in the Assembly. I am working with the Senate author to move this this important legislation in the Senate so we can send this bill to the Governor’s desk for a signature before the end of this legislative session.”

“For years, I have worked to advance legislation protecting child victims of human trafficking. I have advanced Safe Harbor legislation to prevent children from being charged with prostitution since we should never be treating victims like criminals. While I am encouraged that my legislation allowing more children to testify remotely received unanimous approval today, there is much more work to do to advance the interests of justice and end trafficking in Wisconsin.”

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